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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,035	04/04/2001	Robert J. Devins	BUR920000154US1	3793

7590 05/23/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

NGHIEM, MICHAEL P

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2863

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/826,035	Examiner Michael Nghiem	Art Unit 2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION:

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It was not executed in accordance with either 37 CFR 1.66 or 1.68.

One of the inventors' signature (i.e. Mr. Peter LaFauci's) is missing from the declaration.

Drawings

2. Figure 4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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Claim Objections

3. Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- "external interface" should be – internal interface--?

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Devins et al. (US 6,539,522).

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Devins et al. discloses all the claimed features of the invention including:

- a verification test bench system and method (Figs. 1, 8-10) used in testing in a core (112) which is used in a design (100) which comprises:

- a bus functional model (900) which comprises a mirror interface (900) to the core (900 simulates 112) and memory (101);
- a bi-directional general purpose I/O device (1007, 1008);
- a control mechanism (TOS 200) which comprises:
 - a standardized handshake protocol between the design and the mirror interface (handshake interface between TOS 200 and BFM 900, Fig. 9);
 - control code loaded into the bus functional model that controls data flow, transfer direction, and data checking when a test case is running in the design (column 13, lines 21-36);
 - said core has an interface (109) external to said design (Fig. 10b), said mirror interface is coupled to said external interface (via 1005, Fig. 10b), and said test case issues directives in said handshake protocol to initiate and control an exchange of data between said mirror interface and external interface (column 8, lines 21-31);
 - said bi-directional general purpose I/O device is coupled between said design and said bus functional model, and transfers said directives between said design and said bus functional model (1007, 1008 is between 100 and 1005, Fig. 10b);
 - said control code responds to said directives by configuring said mirror interface for said exchange of data (Fig. 9 shows 900 being "configured" to exchange data);

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- said control code verifies results of said exchange of data (column 7, lines 56-61);
- a test case executing in said SOC (Fig. 8) which applies verification stimuli to said external interface using said control mechanism (column 13, lines 22-25);
- attaching a mirror interface (101) to an external interface (112) of a core (102, 105) in an SOC (100);
- executing a test case (TOS 200) in said SOC (Fig. 8) which applies test stimuli to said external interface using said mirror interface (column 13, lines 22-25);
- a program product (TOS) tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium (e.g. workstation, column 12, lines 67 – column 13, line 1), said program product comprising computer-executable instructions (column 12, lines 43-47, lines 55-57).

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (703) 306-3445. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H from 6:30AM – 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached at (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-5841 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Michael Nghiem

May 14, 2003